The progress achieved by the above non-mulberry research units is briefly given here under:

1. With the advent of technologies in the non-mulberry sector; the non-mulberry silk production which was 554 MT in 1971-72 rose to 1284 MT in 1998-99.

2. Adoption of nursery techniques and introduction of economic plantation for T. arjuna has resulted in increase of tasar cocoon production to 60 cocoons per dfl from the level of 20—30 per dfl.

3. Integrated package of rearing techniques has been evolved and field trials conducted.

4. New oviposition device in muga has been developed.

5. 14 new morphotypes of muga food plants have been developed.

6. Nursery techniques for Soalu plantation has been standardized.

7. 92 varieties of Caster food plant have been maintained in germplasm for exploitation by different involved in sericulture.

Sathyam Committee Report on Textile Policy

3518. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) when the Sathyam Committee on Textile Policy submitted its Report;

(b) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations made by Sathyam Committee;

(c) whether there is any proposal before Govt. to introduce a new textile policy in the current session of Parliament.

(d) if so, how the Govt. will protect the handloom industry; and

(e) whether Govt. are thinking of repealing the Handloom Reservation Act, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Sathyam Committee submitted its report on 3rd August, 1999.

(b) to (e) The Expert Committee Constitute under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam to, *inter alia,* review the impack of the existing Textile Policy and suggest policy measures for the industry to focus on changes resulting from over-all trade policy reforms, drew up its report after wide consultation with institutions and organisations representing the various sectors of the industry, including State Governments. The Development Commissioner (Handloom) was one of the member of the Committee. The recommendations of the Committee including those on handlooms, focus on measures to secure progressive increase in production and exportable surplus, removal of technological obsolescenece, strengthening of the competitive framework of all segments of the textile industry, removal of avoidable regulations and facilitation for orderly transition of the industry to that of a market oriented forward looking industry. These are being taken into account in framing the New Textile Policy. The New Textile Policy is under consideration.

Safeguarding the interests of Cotton Growing Farmers

3519. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton is growing in huge quantity in Gujarat;

(b) whether the farmers do not get adequate price of cotton;

(c) whether the Central Government purchased cotton of Rs. 11 crores from Gujarat but the payment has not been made to them;

(d) whether Government propose to enhance the rate of cotton so that farmers may not be frustrated; and